

## Achievement Track Welcomes Thirty New England Facilities

EPA recently welcomed thirty New England facilities as the first charter members of its new National Environmental Achievement Track program. The program recognizes and rewards companies that have demonstrated a commitment to superior environmental performance. The New England facilities were among 225 nationwide in the list of charter members. A major foundation of this new national program was the Star Track program, developed by EPA's New England office several years ago. The facilities accepted as charter members include:

### Connecticut

- **Clairol Worldwide**, Stamford, manufactures hair care and hair coloring products;
- **Heating Oil Partners/DDLC Fuels**, Danielson and New London, stores and sells fuel oil for commercial and residential use, and sells, installs and repairs heating and cooling systems;
- **Johnson & Johnson Medical**, Southington, manufactures medical products and devices;
- **The Torrington Company**, Watertown, manufactures steering columns;
- **Unilever Home & Personal Care USA**, Clinton, manufactures personal care products;
- **U. S. Postal Service**, Hartford Processing and Distribution Center, processes and distributes letters and parcels; and,

- **U. S. Postal Service**, Hartford Vehicle Maintenance Facility, services over 1,300 vehicles at least twice a year.

### Maine

- **Guilford of Maine**, Guilford, weaves synthetic fabrics;
- **International Paper (Androscoggin Mill)**, Jay, manufactures high-grade paper and specialty paper; and,
- **U. S. Postal Service**, Portland Processing and Distribution Center, processes, codes and distributes letters and parcels.

### Massachusetts

- **Acushnet Rubber**, two plants in New Bedford, designs and manufactures custom-molded rubber products and high performance o-rings;
- **Beacon Skanska Construction Corp.**, Boston, a construction management company working in New England;
- **Dupuy Orthopaedics**, New Bedford and Raynham, manufactures orthopaedic implants;
- **Mitek East**, Norwood, manufactures products for soft-tissue repair;
- **PerkinElmer Optoelectronics**, Salem, designs and manufactures a variety of electro-optic devices for defense and commercial industries;
- **Shipley Company**, Marlborough, supplies specialty chemicals to the electronics industry;

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## Compliance Assistance Clearinghouse Web Site

EPA, states and other key stakeholders have developed a National Compliance Assistance Clearinghouse to provide regulated industries with compliance assistance information to meet environmental requirements. EPA had been asked by states and other compliance assistance providers to create a central network to help them find information quickly and allow them to communicate with each other more effectively. The clearinghouse web site provides a single repository of compliance assistance materials and can quickly locate compliance assistance information on other web sites. It allows users to add links from their own web sites, select the information they need from the site and apply it to their own web sites, and tell EPA about their compliance needs. Initially, the clearinghouse will focus on providing links to EPA and state web sites. EPA will expand the site's content by adding information from industry sources, private organizations and other assistance providers. The web address for the site is: [www.epa.gov/clearinghouse](http://www.epa.gov/clearinghouse).

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# Metal Products and Machinery Effluent Proposed Guidelines Incorporate Strategic Goals Program

EPA has proposed guidelines for wastewater discharges from the metal products and machinery industry. The proposed guidelines, available on the National Metal Finishing Resource Center web site at NMFRC.Org, are scheduled to be finalized by the end of 2001 and implemented by 2003. The Metal Products and Machinery (MP&M) guideline establishes national technology-based limits on pollutants in wastewater discharges from facilities that manufacture, rebuild, or maintain metal parts, products, or machines. This regulation will affect an estimated 63,000 facilities nationwide, encompassing 18 industrial sectors and over 200 Standard Industrial Classifications.

The regulation ratchets down the allowable limits for metals in wastewater, but metal finishing job shops, those who own less than 50% of the parts they plate, are offered a Pollution Prevention Alternative to compliance. The proposed regulation states "The purpose of a Pollution Prevention Alternative is to reduce economic impacts on the facilities in the metal finishing job shop subcategory, and to take into consideration the activities and achievements of the Common Sense Initiative to test innovative approaches to environmental protection which has culminated in the National Strategic Goals Program. The Strategic Goals Program is a long term strategic vision for improved environmental protection by the entire metal finishing industry. The Metal Finishing Industry's tangible commitment to work with the agency lays the foundation for this P2 compliance alternative."

Because of the industry's involvement in the Strategic Goals Program, the estimated 1,500 job shops nationwide will be able to take advantage of this Pollution Prevention Alternative. Although the Pollution Prevention Alternative is still in the comment phase, it will likely involve some kind of Environmental Management System that sets environmental performance goals and tracks progress towards them. Companies who have joined the Strategic Goals Program already have a system in place – the Goals worksheets. Companies who have been proactive and involved in the Strategic Goals Program will most likely have an advantage when the regulation is finalized.

For more information contact Linda Darveau, EPA New England, 617.918.1718, or the visit the Strategic Goals web site at [www.strategicgoals.org](http://www.strategicgoals.org).

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## Database Makes it Easier to Buy Green Products and Services

EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Program recently launched a web site that provides information for more than 600 products and services. The database is one of several resources that the EPP program has developed to assist government agencies in their purchase of environmentally preferable products and services, in compliance with Executive Order 13101. Organized into 50 categories from appliances to vehicles, the database is a comprehensive resource for conducting pre-solicitation market research, revising performance specifications, developing contract language, or establishing evaluation criteria. The EPP database includes more than 330 environmental standards and guidelines developed by government agencies and independent groups. There are links to hundreds of environmental purchasing resources, potential suppliers, and contracts used by federal, state, and local governments and the private sector for purchasing green products and services. More information on this program is available at: [www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/database.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/database.htm)

## Laboratories Encouraged to Improve Environmental Performance

EPA is offering regulatory or policy flexibility under Project XL to laboratories participating in the Agency's Labs21 program. Labs21 is a voluntary initiative being developed by EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy to improve the performance of laboratories in energy and water efficiency, renewable energy usage and environmental stewardship. By offering potential flexibility through Project XL, EPA hopes that laboratories will explore additional innovations that could produce even better environmental results. By applying the Labs21 approach, EPA labs could realize reductions of as much as 68 percent in electricity demand, 66 percent in energy use, and 80 percent in water consumption, depending on the laboratory. Project XL, which stands for eXcellence and Leadership, is a five year old EPA program that tests innovative ways of achieving better and more cost-effective public health and environmental protection, working in conjunction with greater accountability to stakeholders. Further information is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/labs21century/conf/index/html>

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- **Snap-On Tools**, Natick, manufactures air power tools;
- **Spalding Sports**, Chicopee, manufactures sporting goods;
- **Teradyne Inc.**, North Reading, assembles and tests printed circuit boards used in the electronics industry;
- **Texas Instruments**, Attleboro, research and design center producing electronic sensor and control devices;
- **USGen New England Inc.**, with stations in Rowe, Buckland and Florida, provides hydroelectric power generation; and,
- **U.S. Coast Guard Air Station**, Cape Cod, supports a wide variety of Coast Guard missions including aircraft search and rescue, law enforcement and marine environmental protection.

### **New Hampshire**

- **DM Electronics Recycling Corp. (DMC)**, Newfields, recycles electronic products;
- **Heidelberg Web Systems, Inc.**, Dover, manufactures lithographic printing presses and related equipment;
- **Loctite Corp.**, Seabrook, manufactures adhesives including hot melt glue sticks, epoxies and mold release compounds;
- **New Hampshire Ball Bearings, Inc.**, Peterborough, manufactures precision ball and roller bearings for the aerospace industry;
- **BAE Systems (formerly Sanders)**, facilities in Nashua, Merrimack, Hudson, Litchfield and Londonderry, manufactures advanced electronic systems for the defense market; and,
- **USGen New England**, facilities in Littleton, Monroe and Lebanon, provides hydroelectric power generation.

### **Vermont**

- **International Business Machine Corporation (IBM)**, Essex Junction, manufactures semiconductor chips; and,
- **USGen New England**, facilities in Wilder, Bellows Falls, Vernon, Readsboro and Searsburg, provides hydroelectric power generation.

The next application period for the National Achievement Track is February through April 2001. Program information and application materials can be found at [www.epa.gov/performance-track](http://www.epa.gov/performance-track). EPA New England will be hosting an application workshop on March 7, 2001. To register for the workshop please contact Marge Miranda at 617.918.1825 or [miranda.marge@epa.gov](mailto:miranda.marge@epa.gov).

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## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

### **March 7 - 9**

#### **National Compliance Assistance Providers Forum**

Loews Annapolis Hotel  
Annapolis, Md.

For compliance assistance providers. Participants will learn about EPA's compliance assistance and enforcement priorities, identify emerging sectors, share compliance assistance success stories, and identify how to measure success. Participants will share their views with EPA on how to improve compliance assistance planning, policy and implementation. For more information contact EPA at 703.247.4256 or send an e-mail to: [caforum@marasconewton.com](mailto:caforum@marasconewton.com).

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### **EPA Lowers Reporting Threshold for Lead**

A new EPA rule requires significantly more reporting of environmental releases of lead under the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). The reporting threshold previously required that facilities report lead and lead compound emissions to the air, water and land if they manufacture or process more than 25,000 pounds annually or use more than 10,000 pounds annually. That threshold is now lowered to 100 pounds or more annually for each facility manufacturing, processing or otherwise using lead and lead compounds. Alloys of stainless steel, bronze and brass are exempt from the new requirements. The new requirements for lead and lead compound emissions will apply to 2001 emissions. The reports on those emissions will be submitted in 2002.

EPA issues an annual report on the collected TRI data as part of the Agency's continuing effort to provide access to toxic chemical releases information. The rule announced today is part of the Agency's effort to limit human exposure to toxic chemicals. Such chemicals are of significant concern, not only because of their toxicity, but also because they persist in the environment for long periods of time and build up or accumulate in body tissue.

Information about the TRI program, including chemicals and relevant industry sectors, guidance in reporting and other information, is available at: [www.epa.gov/tri](http://www.epa.gov/tri). Questions about TRI reporting can be directed to the hotline at 800.424.9346 or 703.412.9877 or to Dwight Peavey, EPA NewEngland's TRI Coordinator, at 617.918.1829.

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